

Go get wild in the Bay Area over summer break

by Anna Esslinger and Hana Beach

Humor Editors

Shakespeare Santa Cruz (July 23-Sept. 1): This critically acclaimed annual festival has been a Santa Cruz tradition since 1981. Held at UC Santa Cruz, the festival will be presenting three classics: Taming of the Shrew, Henry V, and Tom Jones.

Gilroy Garlic Festival (July 26-28): Celebrate garlic, good food, art, and music at Christmas Hill Park in Gilroy. Tickets are \$17 and include a full day of garlic-filled festivities.

The Bling Ring: Academy Award-winning writer and director Sofia Coppola shows off her talents with her new summer movie. Her past films—The Virgin Suicides, Lost in Translation, Marie Antoinette, and Somewhere—give viewers hope that this movie will be a success.

UC Berkeley Botanical Garden: Filled with plants from all over the world, this giant garden is beautiful

and picturesque. With every new visit, you will learn something new and see exotic plants that you have never seen before.

Big Basin Redwoods State Park: The redwoods are perfect for both people who like to hike and people who don't. Whether you take the footpath along the redwoods or go into the mountains, you will be sure to enjoy the beautiful nature around you.

Marin Headlands: The North Bay is my favorite part of the Bay Area. The Marin Headlands are absolutely stunning. The sea cliffs expose the most beautiful views of the golden bay. The Marin Headlands offer everything from hiking to beach adventures.

MOMA: The Clock, by Christian Marclay, and the photographs of Garry Winogrand are both at the MOMA. The MOMA is easily one of the best museums in the Bay Area. Not only does the museum offer a fun activities, but it also a good place to eat. Although a little pricey, the museum restaurant offers Cindy Sherman Ice Cream



Sundaes and sandwiches.

Coit Tower: After the walk up Telegraph Hill in San Francisco, the view from Coit Tower is breathtaking and rewarding. The bottom floor is adorned with the murals of famous painter Diego Rivera. For just a few dollars, anyone can take the elevator up to get the best view of the city.

The Marina and Crissy Field: The Marina is a yuppie area of San Francisco that has great food and shopping, including the great hot dogs at Frank's stand and the warming hut. Also, the Presidio and Crissy Field are a short, beautiful walk away.

Monterey Bay Aquarium: Visit one of the nicest aquariums in the country. The otters, the big tank, and the jellyfish are sure to excite the inner marine biologist in all of us. Not only does the aquarium provide amazing views of marine life; it also provides stunning views of the Monterey Bay. End the visit with dinner at the Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. and you will be sure to have the perfect day.

El Gato equips you with fun vacation reads

by Madison Prestine

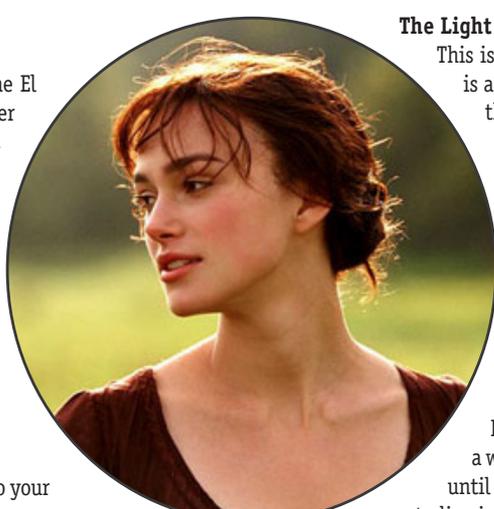
Opinion Editor

We have nine days until summer and the El Gato staff is here to ensure that you enter June armed with a list of sappy romances, the newest Sarah Dessen (The Moon and More, by the way) and also books with the perfect combination of intellect and romance. Sometimes vapid romance novels are unfulfilling. In order to combat this, we've compiled several beach reads and a few more scholarly works of literature well-suited for a week of traveling.

For a Week-Long Vacation:

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

If you haven't already added this classic to your library I highly suggest it. This novel is a romance woven with the ideas and morals of an earlier time period when women built their lives around marriage to a man of appropriate status. Austen challenges the idealistic lifestyle of the time with a story of two people who marry for love and not social status.



The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman

This is no happy-go-lucky romance. Tom Sherbourne is a returned military man who cannot readjust to the trivial and petty problems in society; instead he opts for total isolation as a lighthouse keeper. It's smooth sailing for Tom until he meets Isabel. Stedman weaves a story that will make you reconsider the line between right and wrong, whether good people can do bad things, and if "the greater good" actually exists.

This Side of Paradise by F. Scott Fitzgerald

If you want to read a novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald other than The Great Gatsby, This Side of Paradise is a great place to start. Amory Blaine is a wealthy young boy raised by his mother Beatrice, until he is shipped off to his aunt and uncle's home to live in a more stable environment. The novel follows Amory from his childhood into his early twenties. He meets

a beautiful girl who rocks his world but also presents a problem in his life. Fitzgerald's novel ties romance and tragedy together in a novel about an entitled boy becoming an enlightened man.

For a Beach Day:

Novels by John Green.

Do not hesitate to jump on the John Green bandwagon and indulge yourself with a cutesy teenage romance beloved by many. This book comes with baggage—cancer is the primary antagonist, but do not be deterred, the novel's story is beautiful. The Fault in Our Stars may lead you to other Green novels such as Looking for Alaska or An Abundance of Katherines. All three novels have similar themes mostly revolving around romance; however, Green is a fresh new writer and this is apparent in his books. Looking for Alaska replaces the typical "bad boy" with a girl, Alaska. Miles Halter is a high school boy bored of his average life who becomes preoccupied with Alaska, a girl who travels a million miles an hour compared to his more conservative pace. On the other hand, An Abundance of Katherines is much closer to a true rom-com. The protagonist in this case is a nerdy boy who falls for the most popular girl in a small town. With interesting twists and witty dialogue, this novel is certain to entertain you in between beach volleyball games and extensive tanning.

It is important to stay mentally active this summer, but El Gato understands the drag of many school-related novels. We recommend these books to get you reading this summer without having English class the next day.

ABBA MUSEUM DELIGHTS FANS

by Alyssa Glenn

Center Editor

If you are a die-hard fan of the sensational Nordic band ABBA, then a trip to the ABBA-inspired museum in Sweden, their homeland, is in order. The museum chronicles the group's journey from the 1960's until the band's breakup in 1983. It opened to the public on May 7 in Stockholm, Sweden. The members of the band took part in the realization of the museum and will be frequent participants in many of the exhibits. The museum is part of the new Swedish Music Hall of Fame and is accompanied by many expositions that explore music in Sweden through the 1920's.

The displays within the museum are among the most interactive in the world. A replica honors the cottage on the island of Viggso where the foursome wrote many of their famous hits. Alongside the model cottage is a piano that plays whenever former band member Benny plays his own piano that resides in his home. There is also a documentary created by Jonas Akerlund. It is showcased on a 360° screen and focuses on the venue where ABBA played in 1975, Gammelby Park.

Yet another historic exhibit is the mixing board on which the music of ABBA was created; it is available for visitors to observe and to try their hand at mixing music of their own. Across from a life-size portrait of the band resides a telephone. One would initially think of it as nothing more than a simple communication device, but it is a unique telephone whose number can be accessed by the band members alone. The members of the "Fab Four" have promised to call occasionally so that if a passerby hears it ringing, he or she has an opportunity to speak with a band member. The exhibit was inspired by their 1973 hit, "Ring, Ring."

There are several exhibits that give museum goers an opportunity to feel like part of the band. Gem-studded replicas of the group's flashy, skin-tight outfits are available for visitors to try on. There is a 3D karaoke exhibit where tourists can try their hand at belting out the upbeat sounds that characterize the 1970's.

The museum captivates die-hard fans and ABBA appreciators alike. While it is thousands of miles away, the ABBA museum is full to the brim with interactive and captivating exhibits that make the journey overseas worth the time and effort.

CREEPY NEW SHOW DEBUTS

by Wade Wallerstein

Editor-in-Chief

Recently, the video streaming and DVD distributing powerhouse Netflix has broadened its television service to include originally produced series. Hemlock Grove, a 13 episode supernatural mystery series, was released in April to critical acclaim.

Based on the novel of the same name by Brian McGreevy and set in fictional Hemlock Grove, Pennsylvania, the show follows the bizarre events that surround a series of brutal murders in the area. The story centers around the Godfrey family, local royalty who own a scientific research facility and medical laboratory in town. Bill Skarsgard plays Roman Godfrey, a tall, brooding, blonde, and devilishly handsome teen who has a strange influence on those around him, as well as a nasty cocaine habit. To add to the weirdness of the show, his "little sister," Shelley Godfrey, is a gargantuan monster who wears a wig to cover her malformed face and types everything that she wants to say into an iPhone worn around her neck.

In the first episode, gypsy boy Peter Rumancek, played by Landon Liboiron of Degrassi and Terra Nova fame, moves into town with his mother. After a girl from the high school is found dead, locals blame Peter the newcomer and label him as a werewolf. Ironically, Peter actually is a werewolf. Both social outcasts with secrets, Peter and Roman soon meet

and become fast friends setting out to solve the mystery of the murders and clear Peter's name.

In the vein of Twin Peaks, many aspects of the series are vague or come completely out of left field. For

example, strange drug-fueled sex scenes, odd dreams, and tidbits of the supernatural and unexplained pepper the show. Though deadly serious, the program is as drama-filled as a tele-novela. Roman's mother Olivia Godfrey, played by Famke Janssen, has been having an affair with Roman's uncle and drove Roman's father to commit suicide when Roman was very young. Roman's cousin Letha Godfrey, played by Penelope Mitchell, claims immaculate conception by an angel.

All-in-all, despite some of its campy aspects and the over the top drama, Hemlock Grove is an awesome show. In fact, I think that it is the corniness that makes it so great. The show is just ridiculous, but also serious enough that it allows for perfect suspension of disbelief. Each episode is fast paced and pretty crazy; at the end of most episodes, I have to go back and rewind to watch the subtle parts that I missed.

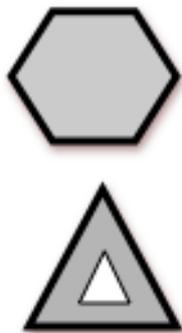
Equal parts creepy, dramatic, romantic, and thrilling, Hemlock Grove is not a series to pass on. All episodes are available on Netflix instant streaming or can be ordered in DVD form. It's the perfect late night summertime show; Bill Skarsgard's dark, penetrating gaze will give you the chills.



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